RAJYA SABHA

Tuesday, the 17th November, 1987
26 Kartika, 1909 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock, **Mr. Chairman** in the Chair

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Busting of a Pak Spy Network

141 SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD;† DR RATNAKAR PANDEY .

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a Pakistani spy network was busted in the border districts of Poonch and Rajouri of Jammu region, with the arrest of five persons in the area in the beginning of October, 1987,

(b) if so, what are the details of the persons arrested and the *modus operandi* of the Pak spy network; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

According to information received from the Government of Jammu and Kashmir, one Mohd Din, son of Attah Mohd resident of Mandhar (Pak Occupied Kashmir—POK) was arrested on September 24, 1987 by the State Police and a case under section 2/3 Egress and Ingress Movement Control Order, and section 3 Enemy Agents Ordinance was registered at PS Mandi District Poonch. On his disclosures four other Indian nationals namely (1) Abdul Sitar son of Akhbar, (2) Ghulam Nabi son of Jabar Naik, both resident of Chhamber Kinari, PS Mandi, (3) Abdul Khaliq son of Gh Mohd resident of Mandi and (4) Abdul Majid son of Abdul Hamid, resident of Chhamber Kinari, PS Mandi were arrested. In the course of interrogation Mohd. Din. Abdul Sitar and Gulam Nabi admitted that they had engaged in espionage activities. Under the orders of District Magistrate, Poonch, Mohd Din has been detained under the J&K Public Safety Act for 2 years Abdul Sitar and Gulam Nabi have been detained for one year under the same Act. As there was no evidence to establish the charges of espionage against Abdul Khaliq and Abdul Majid, they were released by the Police under section 169 Cr. P. C

SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD : I would like to know whether the Government has received any information about the report that Pakistani intelligence and massive spy network working in India have supplied information to Pakistan Government that in the event of a major warfare, unlike Siachin, between the two countries, Pakistan will have the solid support of a large number of Indian collaborators, both military and civilian, in India If yes, whether the Government will share such information with the House and if no information is available with the Government of India, whether the Government will assure the House that appropriate action will be taken to ascertain facts in this regard and take action to safeguard the security of the country.

SHRI P CHIDAMBARAM This question relates to a specific arrest made in Jammu and Kashmir and action taken consequent thereto. I think the hon. Member is referring to yet another report. I do not have any specific answer to that report unless he tells us what that report is and where he saw that report I can assure the House that our security forces and our intelligence agencies are constantly on the vigil and any attempt at espionage by Pakistani agencies or Pakistani nationals will be carefully watched and thwarted and we will not let our security be compromised in any manner whatsoever. I can assure the House that we are constantly on the vigil.

SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD Though I am not satisfied with the answer, I put

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Mahendra Prasad

my second supplementary. I would like to know whether it is a fact that the recent reverses suffered by Pakistan's military forces in Siachin were intentional by Pakistan on the advice of Pakistan intelligence working in India to mislead India as to their supposed military weaknesses with the hope that India may be caught unawares in a future major warfare and thus suffer a defeat at the hands of Pakistan because of inadequate preparedness emanating from arrogance of recent victory in Siachin. Have the Government taken any steps with regard to counter-intelligence in this connection?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : You will appreciate that this is a question which should be addressed to the Defence Ministry. I do not think our Defence forces are unprepared. They are extremely prepared and we are not going to be taken in by any kind of misinformation or disinformation campaign that is being spread by Pakistan. I am sure that our Defence forces are extremely prepared to meet any challenge by Pakistan

SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD : What about counter intelligence? This is the subject of the Home Ministry.

डा. रत्नाकर पाण्डेय माननीय सभापति जी, मंत्री जी ने जो जवाब दिया है उसमें है कि 4 घुसपैठिये जम्मू और पूंछ एरिये में पकड़े गये और दो कानून साक्ष्य के अभाव में छोड़ दिये गये और दो एक साल के लिए नजरबंद कर दिये गये हैं। सुनने में, देखने में, पढ़ने में यह आता है कि लाखों की तादाद में घुसपैठिए पाकिस्तान के बार्डर एरियाज से हमारे देश में प्रवेश करते हैं. **(व्यवधान)** मैं भाषण नहीं कर रहा हूं। मैं जानना चाहता हूं आपके माध्यम से कि माननीय मंत्री जी ने इसको रोकने के लिए क्या उपाय किए हैं और जो तत्व इनको संरक्षण देते हैं, जो बहुत से लोग इनको संरक्षण देते हैं उनकी क्या जांच की गयी है मंत्री जी इसका विस्तार से विवरण दें।

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, I am not sure how the hon. Member came to the conclusion that we have released all of them In my statement, I have pointed out the following the arrest of one Mohd Din, four other persons were arrested. Of these four persons, two persons, Abdul Khaliq and Abdul Majid, were released by the police.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He did not say 'all of them'.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM . he said all'. There is no evidence against Abdul Khaliq and Abdul Majid and, therefore, they were released Against the others, action has been taken under the Jammu and Kashmir Public Safety Act As far as ongoing action against espionage activities is concerned, we have received information from the State Government about the number of cases registered from 1984 to June 1987 the number of persons involved, the pendency of these cases, how many of these cases are *subjudice* and how many of them have been put under the Jammu and Kashmir Public Safety Act

We are satisfied that the Government of Jammu and Kashmir is conscious of the importance of this matter and they are taking action against all those who are involved in espionage activities and which come to light

PROF C LAKSHMANNA : Sir, from the answer given by the hon Minister, it is seen that they could take action only when they got the information from the Government of Jammu and Kashmir But then I would like to remind the hon Minister that we have also our Central intelligence I would like to know what is the information available with you, not from the Government of Jammu and Kashmir but from your own sources—regarding the espionage activities conducted by several people Is it always necessary for you to just depend on the State Governments, especially when such activities are taking place in a very important border State? What information you have gathered on your own in regard to these two people? Has there been any attempt made by you to get information on your own or you are simply depending on what is given to you by the Jammu and Kashmir Government?

SHRI P CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, we have our own information from our intelligence agencies about this espionage group

as well as about other espionage activities. I am not relying only on the information given to us by the Jammu and Kashmir Government. We have our own report As regards this incident, our report broadly corroborates the report given by the Jammu and Kashmir Government.

श्री धीरेन्द्र वर्मा माननीय मन्त्री जी बताने की कृपा करें कि जो इंटेलिजैंस रिपोर्ट उनको प्राप्त हुई है, उसके अनुसार चाहे उसने कोरेबोरेट किया हो स्टेट गवर्नमेंट की रिपोर्ट से या स्टेट गवर्नमेंट की रिपोर्ट ने कोरेबोरेट किया है आपकी इंटेलिजैंस रिपोर्ट से, तो पहले कौन-सी रिपोर्ट आई जिसमें हमें अपनी इंटेलिजैंस एजेंसी की सक्रियता का ज्ञान हो?

मान्यवर, जो इंटरोगेशन किया गया है उस आदमी से जो मोहम्मद दीन पकड़ा गया है पाकिस्तान की ओर से एस्पियोनेज करने वाला, तो इस इंटरोगेशन में क्या इनक्रिमिनेटरी मैटीरियल भी इनके पास से मिला है, और क्या-क्या इम्पोर्टेन्ट इनफर्मेशन उन्होंने दी है, उनकी क्या योजना थी ?

SHRI P CHIDAMBARAM . Sir, in this particular case, our report is earlier than the Jammu and Kashmir report. Our report is shortly after the arrests were made

श्री धीरेन्द्र वर्मा वह कब की है ? डेट आफ दी रिपोर्ट ।

SHRI P CHIDAMBARAM I will give the date. The report from our agency is dated 4th November 1987 Then, we asked the State Government for a comprehensive report and this report has come subsequently

श्री धीरेन्द्र वर्मा माननीय सभापति जी 24 सितम्बर, 1987 को स्टेट गवर्नमेंट की रिपोर्ट पर उनको पकड़ा है, तो फिर आपकी रिपोर्ट पहले कैसे हो गई ?

श्री सभापति पहले उन्होंने दी है, तब उस पर उन्होंने . . . .

श्री धीरेन्द्र वर्मा नहीं, यह बता रहे हैं कि इंटेलिजेंस रिपोर्ट नवम्बर में आई है ।

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM . Sir, we collect information following reports appearing in newspapers and questions in Parliament. I am answering on the basis of the information collected by us In this case, we have our own report and a report from the Jammu and Kashmir Government. I have said it and I repeat that the two reports corroborate each other. Now, if you ask what information was given, the information obtained by intelligence agencies is from sensitive channels and it would not be possible either to disclose the source of the report nor would it be possible to disclose what information was given during the interrogation At this stage, it would not be in the public interest to disclose what came out during the interrogation.

श्री बी. सत्यनारायण रेड्डी सभापति महोदय, मंत्री महोदय ने कहा है कि एक पाकिस्तानी जासूस को गिरफ्तार किया गया और चार हिन्दुस्तानी नागरिकों को गिरफ्तार किया गया । उसमें से जो मोहम्मद दीन है उसको दो साल की डिटेंशन और दूसरों को एक-एक साल की और बाकी दो को रिहा कर दिया । मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूं कि जो पाकिस्तानी जासूस घुसपैठ करके हिन्दुस्तान आ रहे हैं या हमारे काश्मीर के इलाके में आ रहे हैं इन चारों का ही नहीं है, कई सालों से कई लोग घुसपैठ कर आ रहे हैं, और जो जासूस हिन्दुस्तान में दाखिल होते हैं उनको डिटेन करने के अलावा जांच करके कोई सजा दी गई या नहीं, इसके बारे में कुछ नहीं कहा गया है ? उपरोक्त चारों के अलावा और एक मोहम्मद दीन को जो दो साल के लिए बंद किये गये हैं, इनके अलावा दूसरे ऐसे कितने जासूस हैं जिनके खिलाफ कोई कार्यवाही की गई और उनको सजा दी गई? ऐसे जासूसों को कोई सजा देने के बारे में कुछ हुआ है या नहीं, इसके बारे में मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, as I said a little while earlier, we have information about the number of cases registered, number of cases which are pending investigation and number of cases which are pending before the court. It is a very long list. I have the names of the persons arrested I have the nationality. I have the

status of each case Firstly, I do not think you expect me to read out this very long list Secondly I do not think any public interest would be served by giving the names of the persons and their nationality All I can assure the House is

SHRI B SATYANARAYAN REDDY My question was whether apart from detention these spies have been punished. That is my question Detention is quite different from punishment.

SHRI P CHIDAMBARAM Sir, just going through this list very rapidly I find that in a case involving one Abid Ali and Jagir Singh, they were convicted. In a case involving one Shaukat Ali, there was a conviction. Many other cases are *sub judice*. There are cases in which convictions have been obtained (*Interruptions*) I would have to collect the information, tabulate it and place it before the House but I have the cases from 1984 to 1987. Most of these cases are *sub judice* If the tabulation is necessary, I will do it and place it before the House

SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT : Mr Chairman, Sir, I think the hon. Minister is aware that this 650 km long border is of two types. One is the international border and the other is actual line of control. The report is that the clandestine entry of the Pakistani spies from the international border is much less, but it is more from across the ceasefire line These spies and saboteurs enter along with the marriage parties at night Marriages are celebrated in the dark hours of the night and in the morning hours they sneak back to Pakistan. You have plugged the international border but there are so many cases of clandestine entries from this actual line of control What are the reasons for that ?

SHRI P CHIDAMBARAM I do not have any breakup of spies who crossed the actual line of control and those who crossed the International border Anyone who infiltrates into the Indian territory and if there are espionage charges against him, he is treated as a spy. I am not in a position to give an answer to the hon. Member about how many came across the line of actual control and how many came across the international border.

MR CHAIRMAN . Yes Mr Jaswant Singh

SHRI JASWANT SINGH Thank you very much for calling me but I did not raise my hand for asking a supplementary. Nevertheless, I am grateful that I catch your eye

SHRI ARUN SINGH . Would the hon Minister like to advise us—(a) whether he considers the Official Secrets Act as currently existing on the Statute Book as adequate in all respects in terms of counter-intelligence, (b) if not, whether there is any proposal to amend the Official Secrets Act, and (c), if yes, by when ?

SHRI P CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, some amendments to the Official Secrets Act are under consideration They are at a fairly advanced stage. I am not in a position to say when we will be able to introduce a bill, but I hope it will be as soon as possible

कुमारी सईदा खातून: माननीय सभापति महोदय, मैं मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहूंगी कि क्या इस केस में सी. आई. ए. का हाथ है? अगर हाथ है तो क्या सरकार द्वारा उसके लिए जांच करवायी गयी है या नहीं करवायी गयी है? क्या जम्मू बार्डर से अगर उन लोगों का पदार्पण हुआ है तो जैसा कि बताया गया है कि इसके लिए जांच आफिसर बिठाया गया है, तो मैं जानना चाहूंगी कि उस जांच आफिसर द्वारा क्या कार्यवाही की गयी है ?

SHRI P CHIDAMBARAM : Sir, I have submitted that most of these cases are under investigation and are *sub judice* What is revealed during interrogation, it would not be in public interest to disclose, but if we find that there is an assistance from any other country to these spies, certainly this will be brought out during the investigations or interrogation and we will take action according to law

MR CHAIRMAN : Question 142.

SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA : Sir, Gujarat has a border with Pakistan, Rajasthan has also a border These are very important.

MR CHAIRMAN : Everybody knows about the border of India.